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Title:
Press statement - Cost of Living (Mrs Dunstan)

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PRESS STATEMENT.

FROM: MRS. D. A. DUNSTAN.

SUBJECT: HOUSE-KEEPING.

Under the Liberal Government SA housewives were finding it more and more difficult to make their house-keeping money last, Mrs. D. A. Dunstan, wife of the Leader of the Opposition, said here today. Mrs. Dunstan, an economist and senior tutor in economics at the Adelaide University, said the present Government had said before the last election State taxation was too high.

"And yet it increased the taxation by 20 per cent per head of population during its first year of office.

"One of the worse things the LCL did was to introduce the receipts tax of one cent in every \$10.

"On the surface this may not sound much, but this is how the tax works in practice.

"When the manufacturer sells to the wholesaler, there is a cent in \$10, when the wholesaler sells to the retailer there is another cent in \$10, and when the retailer sells to the customer there is another cent in \$10.

"Once again everything falls back on the poor old customer, who has no way of passing the three or four cent increase on to anyone." Mrs. Dunstan criticised the LCL Government for removing price control on a large number of important household items, including food and clothing.

"In addition rail and bus fares have increased, and doctors' fees have gone up considerably."

She said a Labor Government would administer the Prices Act to protect the purchasing power of money, which would change the present disastrous course home economy was taking.

"Labor would also give the Prices Commissioner wider powers to investigate cases of unfair trade practices, and to pursue and obtain civil remedies for members of the public who have been unfairly dealt with in consumer transactions.

21/5/70

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